

Boon for 'Freeloaders'!

MUNICH, Sept. 15. — THE UNITED States occupation of Western Germany was supposed to have ended 10 years ago when the treaty of peace was signed and the Bonn Government was recognized.

It is still going on, however — not militarily but diplomatically — on an ever-increasing basis, to the agonizing expense of the great American taxpayer and the prospects are for ever-increasing proportions in the future, not for re- trenchment.

This is one of the choice happy hunting grounds of the diplomatic playboys and the U. S. Information Service free-loaders and they have dug themselves in, far from the inquiring eyes of the public back home, to the extent that it is considerable wonder that the German Government puts up with it.

Add to these the unofficial personnel of the Radio Free-Europe operation, plus the non-foreign service staff personnel of the embassy and consulates and propaganda missions, and it means simply that you who are reading this are being had.

Out of Line

Here in Munich, for example, there is a consulate, which is plausible enough because there must be some means of transacting business for American citizens here, tourists and otherwise, who may from time to time have problems. To say, however, that it requires a staff of 28 rated civil or foreign serv-

ice personnel. In addition to the staff employees that go with them, is to depart completely from reality. It just isn't so.

And to say further that the USIS needs 35 rated personnel, plus staff, is no more realistic. That is a considerably larger force than the commercial press associations have for doing a complete, professional job of covering all of Europe.

To make it the more ridiculous, much of the information gathering which USIS and Radio Free Europe do is a matter of clipping newspapers, in large measure the news that has been gathered by those press associations.

More of Them!

The fantasy of the whole business only begins to come into real focus, however, when you look at the overall picture and the establishments that are being maintained elsewhere in Germany.

The consular service, for example, has the following operations — and these figures are only service-rated personnel, to which must be added the additional secretarial and lesser help in other cities:

Stuttgart, 12; Dusseldorf, 11; Frankfurt-Main, 36; Hamburg, 19.

Staggering Cost

And USIS, for its news operations, has an additional 7 in Stuttgart, 8 in Dusseldorf, 15 in Frankfurt-Main, and 6 in Hamburg.

As an experienced, professional newsmen, I can testify, and any other competent professional will back me up, that these figures are so bloated as to be grotesque.

In Bonn, USIS has another 35 and in Berlin 13. In all of this, the West

German government and people are patient, although they are privately unhappy with much of what the Free Europe group is doing in propaganda policy. There have been open protests in the Bavarian parliament, although these are always dampened on demand of Washington.

But the expense that is represented so far as the American public is concerned, is staggering. In addition to salaries, it is necessary to pay transportation costs to and from the States, special living allowances, maintain various special services for the personnel and endless other incidentals. And after some days of observation, I am unable to find the first evidence that any of it is justified.

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(Listen to Fulton Lewis Jr. daily at 4 p. m. and 7 p. m. on KHJ Don Lee).

Examiner's Quiz for Juniors

QUESTIONS:

1. What do we call an addition to a will?
2. What is a leucocyte?
3. Is a fjord land or water?
4. What is a necrologist?
5. How do we spell the plural of armful?
6. Is a manege a household or a school for horses?
7. Would a doctor or a musician be most likely to have a plectrum?
8. Does enervate mean to strengthen or weaken?

ANSWERS

1. Codicil.
2. White blood corpuscle.
3. Water.
4. Writer of obituaries.
5. Armfuls.
6. School for horses.
7. Musician.
8. Weaken.

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